

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :  
Steve J. Aram et al : Group Art Unit:  
Application No. N/A : Attorney Docket No.: 4004-001  
Filed: January 29, 20004 :

Title: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT AND RELATED METHODS

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

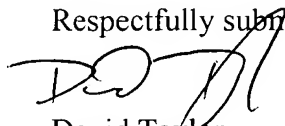
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure, Applicant is herewith bringing to the attention of the Examiner, certain items of information about which he is aware. Submission of this information is not to be construed as an admission that it is material, or even relevant. Furthermore, it should be noted that the information is being submitted in no particular order.

A Form PTO-1449 is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner however copies of the U.S. references have not been included as this U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003 pursuant to the United States Patent and Trademark Office OG Notice of August 5, 2003.

It is believed that no charges are due for this submission since this statement is being filed prior to the first action on the merits in this case. However, if this is incorrect, please debit Account No. 50-0548 and notify the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket No: 4004-001  Applicant: Steve J. Aram  Filing Date: January 29, 2004	Appl'n No:  Group A.U.:				
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	3,469,573	9-30-69	Florio			5-4-66
	3,570,497	3-16-71	Lemole			1-16-69
	3,710,789	1-16-73	Ersek			12-4-70
	4,119,091	10-10-78	Partridge			6-30-77
	4,146,022	3-27-79	Johnson et al			11-16-77
	4,263,904	4-28-81	Judet			2-6-79
	4,667,662	5-26-87	Titone et al			3-5-84
	5,127,413	7-7-92	Ebert			8-9-90
	5,318,575	6-7-94	Chesterfield et al			2-3-92
	5,415,658	5-16-95	Kilpela			12-14-93
	5,741,274	4-21-98	Lenker et al			12-22-95
	5,972,006	10-26-99	Sciano			1-28-97
	5,993,452	11-30-99	Vandewalle			8-24-98
	6,050,998	4-18-00	Fletcher			5-21-99
	6,475,220	11-5-02	Whiteside			5-11-00
	6,595,994	7-22-03	Kilpela et al			12-21-01
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION Yes / No
	PCT WO88/06022	8-25-88	International Application			yes
	2,680,966	9-5-91	France			no
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS</b>						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED		
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.						